

Message Text

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DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAU
SUBJ: ELEVENTH EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

REF: KINSHASA 10300

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT CONCLUSION OF ITS ELEVENTH EXTRAORDINARY MEETING, OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ADOPTED FINAL DECLARATION WHICH APPROVED PRES MOBUTU'S PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN AFRICAN COMMON MARKET. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO ADOPTED RESOLUTION CONCERNING NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN IT FINAL SESSION, DEC 10, OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ADOPTED DECLARATION WHICH CONTAINED FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

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-) APPROVAL OF GRADUAL CREATION OF AFRICAN COMMON MARKET TO COME

INTO BEING WITHIN 25 YEARS. FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMON MARKET ARE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE OAU AND ECA SECRETARIATE AS WELL AS OTHER AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE.

B) OAU SECRETARY GENERAL WAS GIVEN MANDATE TO PREPARE STUDIES RELATING TO INTER-AFRICAN COOPERATION IN COMMERCE AND INTEGRATED AFRICAN ENERGY POLICY.

C) VARIOUS REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL GROUPING ALREADY IN EXISTENCE SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

D) OAU AND ECA SHOULD SET UP A ECONOMIC DATA BANK TO LAY FOUNDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

E) OAU, ECA AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO MOBILIZE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

F) PLANNING INSTITUTE IN DAKAR SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AS SHOULD BE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE OAU.

3. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE DECLARATION, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WHICH: REGRETS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHICH RESULTED IN IMPASSE DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, REAFFIRMS DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN AFRICAN COOPERATION, CALLS UPON MEMBER STATES OF GROUP OF 19 TO MEET AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL BEFORE DEC 20, AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO CONVENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A MEETING OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT A HIGH LEVEL. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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4. COMMENT: MANY DEPARTING DELEGATES HAILED CONFERENCE AS A SUCCESS AND ZAIRIAN PRESS ATTRIBUTED THIS TO ADOPTION OF MOBUTU'S PROPOSAL FOR AFRICAN COMMON MARKET. WE HAVE NO BASIS ON WHICH TO COMPARE RELATIVE SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE EXCEPT IN SO FAR AS THERE APPEARS TO BE NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS WITH CONCEPT OF AFRICAN COMMON MARKET. DELEGATES AT WORKING LEVEL, HOWEVER, WERE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RESULTS. ONE SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT CONFERENCE WAS ILL-CONCEIVED AND POORLY PREPARED. OTHERS NOTED THAT CREATION OF AFRICAN COMMON MARKET WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE AND CITED AS EXAMPLES DIFFICULTIES WITHIN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. STILL OTHERS COMMENTED THAT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AFTER ECA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING SCHEDULED TO OCCUR EARLY NEXT YEAR IN KINSHASA.

5. AS BEST AS CAN BE DETERMINED, QUESTION OF OPEC PRICE INCREASE WAS NOT FORMALLY DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT GHANIAN FONMIN DID ADDRESS ISSUE IN HIS PLENARY STATEMENT. WE GATHER AFRICANS DECIDED NOT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS QUESTION AT THIS TIME, PREFERRING TO SHOW UNANIMITY WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND OPEC PRICE RISE IS EXPECTED

TO BE RAISED AT FORTHCOMING AFRICAN-ARAB MEETING IN CAIRO TO TAKE
PLACE AFTER OPEC MINISTERS CONVENE.

6. FINALLY, ANGOLAN DELEGATION NEVER DID ATTEND MEETING AND WE
UNDERSTAND THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO DECISION OF MPLA REVOLU-
TIONARY COUNCIL NOT T SEND REPS BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES WITH GOZ.
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